

II. REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-57, and 59, and 61-80 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claims 5, 7-12, and 59-77 were examined. Claim 8 was rejected. Claims 5, 7, 9-12, and 59-77 were allowed. Claims 1-4 and 13-57 were withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 5, 7, and 59, and 61 are amended. The amendments to the claims were made solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, and are not to be construed as an acquiescence to any objection or rejection of any claim. Claim 61 is amended to change the claim dependency. Support for the amendments to claims 5, 7, and 59 is found in the claims as originally filed, and throughout the specification, in particular at the following locations: claims 5 and 7: page 44, lines 27-28; and page 7, lines 14-15; claim 59: page 7, lines 6-9. Accordingly, no new matter is added by these amendments.

Claims 8 and 60 is canceled without prejudice to renewal, without intent to acquiesce to any rejection, and without intent to surrender any subject matter encompassed by the canceled claims. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Claims 78-80 are added. Support for new claims 78-80 is found in the claims as originally filed, and throughout the specification, including the following exemplary location: claim 78: page 7, lines 6-9; and claims 79 and 80: page 7, lines 11-14. Accordingly, no new matter is added by these new claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks made herein.

Allowable claims

Applicants note with gratitude that claims 5, 7, 9-12, and 59-77 are deemed allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 8 is canceled without prejudice to renewal, thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, has been adequately addressed in view of the remarks set forth above. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly unpatentable over Habuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,910,581) or Bistrup et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,265,192).

Claim 8 is canceled without prejudice to renewal, thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) has been adequately addressed in view of the remarks set forth above. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

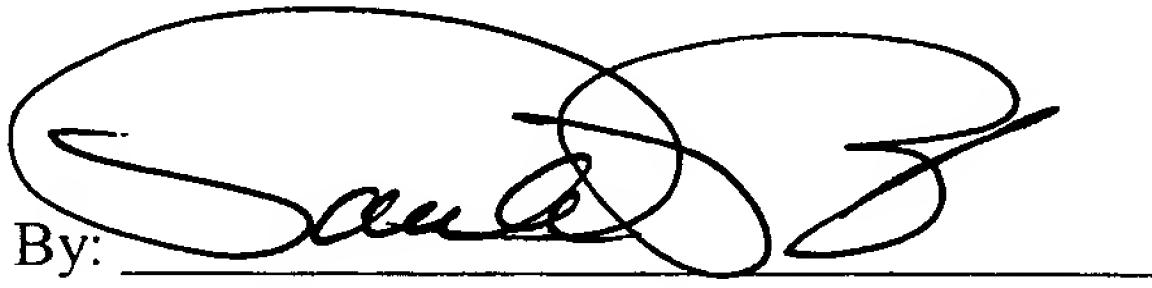
III. CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number UCAL138.

Respectfully submitted,
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